



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# News Release

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## **City of Riverside Explores a Possible Children's Science Museum**

*City Council to vote Feb. 23 on whether to negotiate exclusively with Discovery Science Foundation*

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – The City of Riverside and the Discovery Science Foundation, operators of highly-respected Discovery Cube interactive children's museums in Santa Ana and Los Angeles, are exploring the possibility of opening a similar museum in downtown Riverside, should the Main Library move to a new location.

The Riverside City Council will be asked to vote Feb. 23 on an agreement that would allow the City to negotiate exclusively with the Foundation to occupy the building at 3581 Mission Inn Avenue. The Board of Library Trustees has recommended that the Main Library, which is in that building now, be relocated to a new site because the existing building cannot be renovated into a 21<sup>st</sup> century library. The City Council will vote at the same Feb. 23 meeting whether to move the library.

The Foundation is the parent organization of two Discovery Cube museums in Orange County and Los Angeles. It has a 35-year track record of inspiring young minds by focusing on STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) proficiency, early learning, healthy living and environmental stewardship. More information can be found at [www.discoverycube.org](http://www.discoverycube.org).

Discovery Cube offers engaging and hands-on exhibits, field trips and assembly programs to young people from across Southern California. Their science education programs align with Next Generation Science Standards and their professional development programs for educators provide cutting edge instruction methods, high-quality lesson plans and hands-on activities that can be incorporated into the classroom.

"The Discovery Science Foundation is eager to further explore the possibilities of a Discovery Cube in downtown Riverside," said Discovery Science Foundation CEO Joe Adams. "Our innovative approach to getting young people in the Inland Empire engaged and excited about exploring STEM fields would dovetail perfectly with Riverside's commitment to being a City of Arts and Innovation."

The negotiating agreement, if approved by the City Council, would give the City and the nonprofit Foundation up to a year to determine the feasibility, cost and funding sources for a new “Discovery Cube Riverside.”

“This is an exciting opportunity for Riverside to create a partnership that will greatly benefit our city for generations to come,” City Manager John A. Russo said. “A Discovery Cube in downtown Riverside would attract young families from all over the region and make our downtown even more of a visitor destination.”

The Discovery Science Foundation was awarded the National Medal of Service Award in 2013, making the Discovery Cube in Santa Ana one of only six science centers in the country, and the first in California, to be so recognized. The award is given by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums.

If the City Council approves the exclusive negotiating agreement, negotiations would follow the following guidelines:

- The City would retain ownership of the building.
- The building’s mid-century modern architecture would be respected.
- The Board of Directors would be developed from Riverside and the region to ensure successful programming and long-term financial stability.
- Discovery Cube Riverside would be an active member of the Riverside community and the Inland region.

The Foundation estimates the project’s capital costs would be \$26 million to \$30 million. The City Manager’s Office believes that a local contribution of up to \$10 million for capital costs may be warranted and is actively working with Representative Mark Takano to pursue federal funding for STEM museums.

Other potential funding sources include the federal New Markets Tax Credit program, the Foundation’s funding partnerships, state and federal grants related to STEM, philanthropy and community contributions.

More information about the Discovery Cube can be found here: <http://www.discoverycube.org/news-room/>

For reference purposes, here are some links to past news coverage of Discovery Cube in Orange County and Los Angeles:

ABC7, Opening of Discovery Cube LA -- <http://abc7.com/education/discovery-cube-los-angeles-offers-interactive-science-for-kids/391346/>

KTLA5, Hot Wheels Exhibit at Discovery Cube Orange County -- <http://ktla.com/2015/09/21/hot-wheels-exhibit-at-discovery-cube-orange-county/>

Business Wire, Discovery Cube LA Opens New “Science of Hockey” Exhibit in Partnership with the LA Kings -- <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20150319006499/en/Discovery-Cube-LA-Opens-%E2%80%9CScience-Hockey%E2%80%9D-Exhibit>